



Health and Human Services
111 E. Mullett Street

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 136
Portage, WI 53901-0136

MINUTES
OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The regular meeting of the Columbia County Opioid Abatement Ad Hoc Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m., by Chair Doug Richmond. The meeting was publicly noticed.

ROLL

An attendance sheet was distributed by Gretchen Halvorsen.

OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Doug Richmond; Tom Drury; Cheryl Anderson; Susan Fisher; Stephanie Nickel; Ellen Ellingsworth; Liz Miller; Jessica Beckett; Keith Miller.

OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE MEMBERS EXCUSED: Roger Brandner; Jeff Leckwee.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE STAFF PRESENT: Gretchen Halvorsen.

OTHERS: Jesica Walter, Accounting.

AGENDA/ADDITIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE JUNE 7, 2023 OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE AGENDA.

Motion by Keith Miller, second by Tom Drury. Motion carried.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING(S)

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 11, 2023 MEETING OF THE OPIOID ABATEMENT AD HOC COMMITTEE.

Motion by Tom Drury, second by Liz Miller. Motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT OF SETTLEMENT FUNDS RECEIVED

HHS Accounting Supervisor Jesica Walter presented the financial report showing a balance of \$442,921.99.

UPDATE ON RFP FOR MENTAL HEALTH CLINIC STUDY

Jesica Walter reported that the RFP is in revision and almost completed.

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UPDATE ON FOCUS GROUPS

Public Health Officer Ellen Ellingsworth reported that the focus groups met in May and went well. Thirty-five individuals participated in person or by survey. Ellen reported that a lot of information was learned from holding the groups. Reoccurring themes were:

- Every person's recovery journey is different;
- There is a critical lack of knowledge for persons looking to recover regarding resources and access to those resources;
- If attending support meetings that don't go well, persons in recovery need to continue to search for and attend other support meetings until they find the one "that fits";
- Persons in recovery want to help others on their path to recovery (this came up repeatedly);
- It's hard to feel supported and welcome if you are not a native of Columbia County;
- Participants were happy that the Focus Groups were occurring and staff were their to listen to what participants had to say;
- Participants are glad to see Rise-Up events in the community and the creation of the Recovery Center – these are seen as positives.

Ellen reported on the needs identified by the participants. They are:

- Sober Living facilities;
- 24-Hour Support, including a Warm Line staffed by local personnel;
- Detox;
- Peer Support and peer training;
- Acute Care;
- MAT program;
- More consistent support meetings (Example given of looking for a support group from a resource list, going to that location for the support meeting, and the building was locked and no one around.);
- Transportation;
- More MH/AODA Providers;
- Jail Resources: Peer Support; Resource Info; Follow up through peer support and case management.

The group discussed:

- Stephanie: Announced SOR grant has been received. She is looking for peer support agencies and trying to get information on costs. She also shared that the mobile MAT clinic that was supposed to be available periodically in Portage is having trouble getting State approval to visit other counties to provide services.

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- Ellen: Reported that PARCC is holding a meeting in June with other vendors to identify what the group can do, and whose doing what, to support recovery in the community. Ellen will be attending the meeting.
- Sustainable Funding: The group identified that though the settlement funding is a positive outcome and very much needed in the community, it doesn't replace identifying sustainable funding which is needed for long term needs to help support the recovery community. Funding cycles, grant writing, and mandatory reporting are all barriers to maintaining consistency and continuity of programming for people in recovery. Susan suggested that HHS Director Heather Gove contact the Area Administrator's office to discuss setting up a work group to address the grant timing and funding to help with sustainability.
- Susan: Discussed that any services to be paid for from the settlement money have to be secured through the County's Procurement Process and require an RFP if over \$30,000. Susan promised to send a copy of the process to all committee members so that they could familiarize themselves with the process when discussing expenditures. Susan shared that the committee's suggestion from the previous meeting to use \$6,000 of the settlement money for the Sheriff Department's staff for debriefing and counseling, though it is a worthy cause, cannot be used for supplanting of funds for programs that are already budgeted for and already in operation. Non-budgeted proposals for expenditures need to appear on an agenda in order for the group to be able to vote on them and then require approval by the County Board.
- Next Meeting Agenda: Proposals (vendors and estimates) for peer support and prevention.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Chair Richmond reported that PARCC has a meeting scheduled for July 20 at the Lodi School Administration building, from 1-2:00 p.m. to discuss a presentation by Tom Farley, on September 18, to speak to students and parents about addiction.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Columbia County Opioid Abatement Ad Hoc Committee is scheduled for Friday, July 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., in Meeting Room 2 & 3, at Columbia County Health & Human Services Department, 111 E. Mullett Street, Portage, WI.

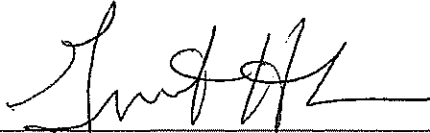
ADJOURNMENT

Chair Richmond declared the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

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The Columbia County Opioid Abatement Ad Hoc Committee will reconvene for their next meeting on Friday, July 7, 2023 at 1:00 p.m., in Meeting Room 2&3, at Columbia County Health & Human Services Department, 111 E. Mullett Street, Portage, WI.

Respectfully submitted,



Gretchen Halvorsen, Executive Secretary
Col. Co. Health & Human Services Dept.

cc: County Board Chair Chris Polzer
County Board 1st Vice Chair Denise Brusveen
County Board 2nd Vice Chair Matthew Rohrbeck

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